

# State missions high priority with Miss. Baptists

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

The observation is often made that many Baptists don't have much of a clue when it comes to the larger world of their conventions' Kingdom work, if it goes beyond the end of their pew.

That may be the case in some Baptist circles, but not in Mississippi. How else to explain the sacrificial giving that each year puts Mississippi Baptists at or near the top of all state conventions in the Southern Baptist Convention when it comes to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions?

The same missions awareness — and personal involvement — is true of Mississippi Baptists' strong support for the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering (MLSMO), which set a record last year by topping \$1,000,000 for the first time ever. The goal for the 2001 MLSMO is \$1,500,000.

Gifts to MLSMO touch a remarkable number of lives in some pretty remarkable ways. Some of those remarkable ways are listed below by category, along with a contact person for more information.

Unless otherwise specified, the contacts can be reached at Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. Individual e-mail addresses are also listed.

The components of the 2001 MLSMO are:

◆ **Language/Ethnic** — \$30,000. It's a fact that not all Mississippians are alike. MLSMO-supported ministries in this area include worship services each Sunday in seven languages and in a number of African-American, Chinese, Choctaw, and Hispanic churches. Contact: Neron Smith. E-mail: nsmith@mbcb.org.

◆ **Camp Garaywa** — \$350,000. Mississippi Baptists' Girls in Action (GA) campground in Clinton accommodated over 1,900 campers in 2000. More than 185 life-

changing decisions were made, including 23 commitments to missions. Camp Garaywa also serves as a year-round facility for meetings and conferences. Contact: Roddy Reed at P.O. Box 1278, Clinton, MS 39060. Telephone: (601) 927-7034. E-mail: rreed@mbcb.org

◆ **Central Hills Retreat** — \$350,000.

Mississippi Baptists' Royal Ambassador (RA) campground near Kosciusko was attended last year by almost 1,000 campers, and 126 professions of faith were recorded. Central Hills serves as a year-round facility for retreats and camps. Contact: Jim Ray at P.O. Box 723, Kosciusko, MS 39090. Telephone: (662) 289-9730. E-mail: jray@mbcb.org.

◆ **Disaster Relief** —

\$50,000. Whenever disaster strikes in Mississippi or around the world, more than 150 trained volunteers are ready to help victims by offering hot food, child care, cleanup/recovery, and providing assistance to churches and communities. Contact: Jim Didlake. E-mail: jdidlake@mbcb.org.

◆ **Missions Awareness** — \$10,000. Written program materials and promotional items are produced every year to be used with preschoolers, children, youth, and adults to teach them about Mississippi Baptist state missions and how to promote MLSMO. Contact: Debbie Sills. E-mail: dsills@mbcb.org.

◆ **Church Building/Pastoral Aid** — \$60,000. Many churches and pastors are coping with circumstances that place them in need. Providing building aid and salary support during crisis times is an important element of MLSMO. Contact: Ed Deuschle. E-mail: edeuschle@mbcb.org

◆ **New Church Starts** — \$225,000. New church starts are a highly effective way to reach people, especially among the exploding ethnic populations in Mississippi. MLSMO helps provide financial resources and other assistance to new church starts. Contact: Ed Deuschle. E-mail: edeuschle@mbcb.org

◆ **Volunteer Missionary Assistance** — \$310,000.

Mississippi Baptists are volunteering in record numbers, and assistance is often needed by team members or to complete a project. MLSMO helps respond to requests from established partnerships and Mississippi missionaries. Contact: Ken Rhodes. E-mail: krhodes@mbcb.org



**IN GOOD HANDS** — William Wright, pastor of McDowell Road Church, Jackson, and a stalwart member of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit, cradles an infant while the child's parents apply for aid after severe flooding struck earlier this year in Baton Rouge. Mississippi Baptists provide for a variety of disaster relief activities through their gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering, including child-care in assistance centers opened after devastating storms. (BR special photo)

◆ **Criminal Justice Ministries** — \$50,000. As new reports confirm the growing prison population in Mississippi, MLSMO helps reach this often-overlooked segment of the population with training, support, and materials for ministries in 14 state prisons as well as local jails. Contact: Neron Smith. E-mail: nsmith@mbcb.org.

◆ **Collegiate Impact** — \$15,000. Mississippi Baptist college students provide a rich resource for reaching their peers and others with the Gospel message. MLSMO helps these college students take the message of Christ around their campuses and across the world. Contact: Weaver McCracken. E-mail: wmccracken@mbcb.org.

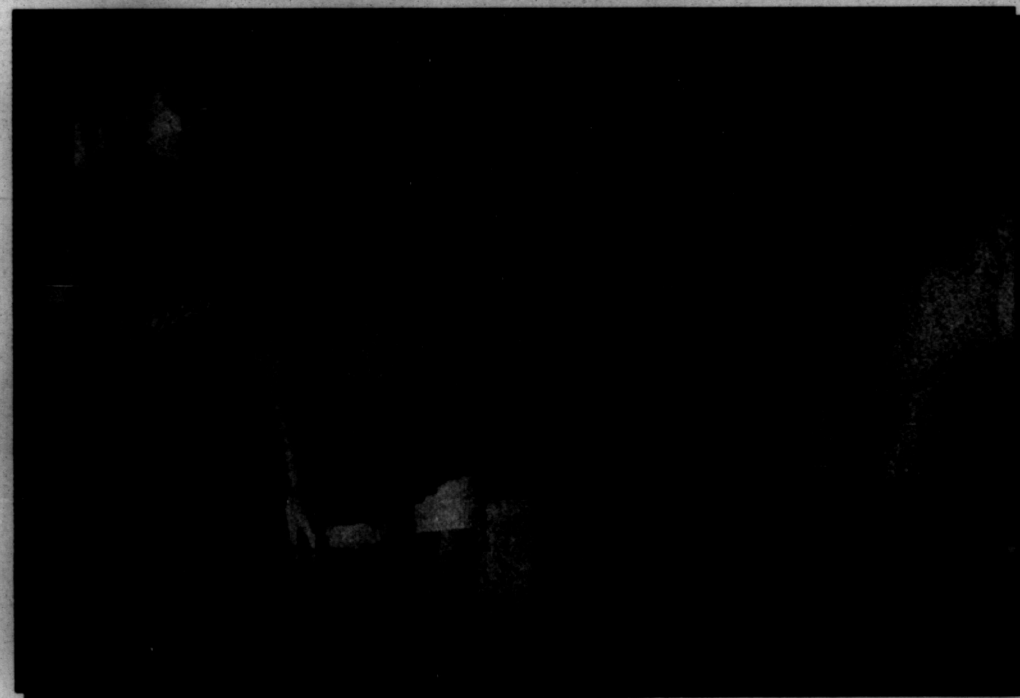
◆ **Christian Women's Job Corps** — \$35,000. MLSMO provides funds for this program which trains women in the skills needed for life, employment, and spiritual fulfillment. Mississippi Baptists currently support six Christian Women's Job Corps sites. Contact: Tammy Anderson. E-mail: tanderson@mbcb.org.

◆ **Literacy** — \$6,000. To reach out to people who cannot read or write, MLSMO supports programs such as English as a Second Language, Adult Reading and Writing, and Tutoring Children and Youth. Contact: Kathy Burns. E-mail: kburns@mbcb.org.

◆ **International Collegiate Ministry** — \$9,000. MLSMO provides the means to place special workers on the state's college campuses to reach more than 1,000 international students who have the potential of one day taking the Gospel back to their home countries with them. Contact: Weaver McCracken. E-mail: wmccracken@mbcb.org.

According to the 2001 MLSMO funding formula, three ministry items will receive priority funding: Camp Garaywa, Central Hills Retreat, and Disaster Relief. When the gifts received have fully funded those ministries, the other items will be funded equally on a pro-rata schedule.

There comes a time each year when Mississippi Baptists prove they believe in the Kingdom work in our own state. Again this year, will we be found faithful?



**FUN AND LEARNING** — Members of First Church, Crystal Springs, and Patterson Park Church, Baltimore, Md., together celebrate a Backyard Bible Club with children from the Crystal Springs area. The two congregations have a church-to-church partnership that complements the partnership between Mississippi and Maryland Baptists through the Partnership Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering support the work of the Partnership Missions Department. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)



# THE MARGARET LACKEY STATE MISSION OFFERING

GOAL: \$1,500,000



BEYOND  
...HE IS ABLE

REACHING OUT — A medical/dental clinic at the Hispanic mission in Sunflower County ministering to many ethnic minorities assisted by gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Offering. As the state's ever more diverse population grows, the offering mission provide worship and study resources in seven languages. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

Mississippi Baptists gave more than \$1,000,000 last year to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering. We rejoice in that overwhelming breakthrough. Much of the success belongs to church mission leaders who prayed, promoted, gave, and encouraged others to give. Let's do it again!

The 2001 State Mission Offering theme, Above and Beyond, captures the excitement of what God is doing across our state in missions. Not only are we giving more, but also more people are personally involved.

A conservative estimate shows that over 12,000 volunteers participated in short term mission projects last year. We can go beyond these records.

Eph. 3:20 reminds us, "...God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine..." Please begin praying that God will display his power again through the generosity of his people.

The 2001 offering goal is \$1,500,000. Ask God to expand your imagination so that we may embrace and exceed this challenge. Then give "above and beyond" what you've given before.

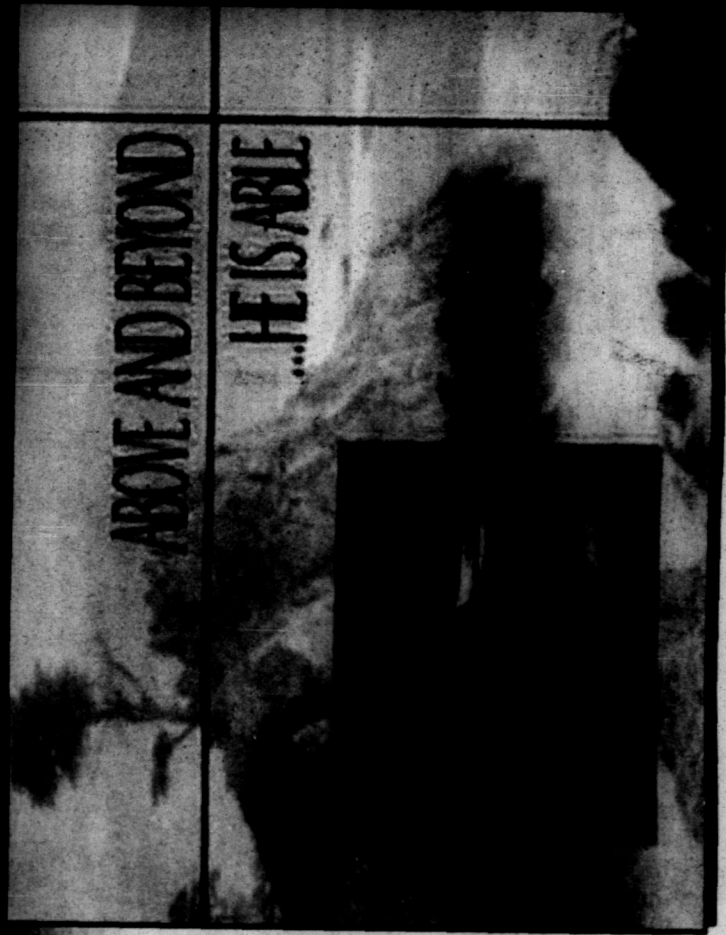
Thank you in advance for your partnership in mission support.



**CARRYING THE CROSS** — Members of Girls in Action (GA) groups from local churches exchange a six-foot cross that was carried across the state this year by GAs, as a symbol of their commitment to sharing the Gospel with the lost people of Mississippi. The campaign was sponsored by the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, which receives and disburses gifts made to the Margaret Lackey State Offering. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)



**The month of September  
is the  
SEASON OF PRAYER FOR  
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST  
MISSIONS  
supported by  
The Margaret Lackey  
State Mission Offering**



given before.  
Thank you in advance for your partnership in mission support and promotion. You will have the satisfaction of knowing God used your energy and commitment when he went "above and beyond" anything we expected. What a privilege is ours through Christ!

David Michel  
Assoc. Exec. Dir.  
Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board

Kay Cassibry  
Exec. Dir.  
Mississippi Woman's  
Missionary Union

For more information on the 2001 Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering, contact Debbie Sills at the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3320 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 320. E-mail: dsills@mbcb.org.





## 2001 Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering

Language/Ethnic  
\$30,000

Camp Garaywa  
\$350,000

Central Hills Retreat  
\$350,000

Disaster Relief  
\$50,000

Missions Awareness  
\$10,000

Church Building/Pastoral Aid  
\$60,000

New Church Starts  
\$225,000

Volunteer Missionary  
Assistance  
\$310,000

Criminal Justice  
Ministries  
\$50,000

Collegiate Impact  
\$15,000

Christian Women's Job  
Corps  
\$35,000

Literacy  
\$6,000

International Collegiate  
Ministry  
\$9,000

*Funding formula: Three ministry items in the 2001 offering receive priority funding: Camp Garaywa, Central Hills Retreat, and Disaster Relief. When the gifts received have fully funded these ministries, the other items will be funded equally on a pro-rata schedule.*

# Lackey offering assisting Kemper church

By Tim Nicholas  
Staff Writer

Corinth Church in Kemper County burned last December. The walls of the sanctuary fell in within 30 minutes, according to Robert Higginbotham, pastor of the rural church.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board was quick to loan the church a mobile chapel for worship and also contributed \$2,500 toward the church's reconstruction building fund.

Both the loan of the mobile chapel and the monetary gift were made possible by Mississippi Baptists who support the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering (MLSMO).

Problems soon began to surface, however. The church was without adequate insurance to cover the cost of rebuilding, and the congregation did not have the ability to rebuild on their own.

The pastor received a call from Terry Cross, who along with T.S. Pigford had founded Lauderdale County Builders for Christ some years ago.

Ordinarily, the Lauderdale team goes out of state for building projects. This time, they wanted to stay close to home — in the adjacent county of Kemper.

"The mission team wants to come build your church," Cross told Higginbotham.

"Since then, I never wake in the morning without thinking of a miracle happening that day," Higginbotham said.



**ROUGH WORK** — Volunteer construction workers carefully unbundle the large prefabricated trusses that were installed atop the new Corinth Church in Kemper County. The church, gutted by a fire last December, is being rebuilt by the Lauderdale County Builders for Christ. The Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering has provided a mobile chapel and a monetary gift to help the church through its crisis time. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

"I've already told my people that my wife and I are going (to help build other churches). I've invited them, and several from our church will be going along with the mission team next year," said Higginbotham, a bivocational pastor who works as a butcher.

"These mission trips involve all kinds of people," said Paul Harris, associate pastor of Open Door Church in Raleigh, N.C.

"There are pastors, businessmen, and a lot of guys that are just 'rough around the gills' — tough guys who are willing to come out here and do something," said Harris, a veteran of the construction group.

"Everybody who comes on a trip like this is a missionary. They are doing something for God even if, when they get back to their workplace, people look at them and wouldn't call that guy a missionary," said Harris.

The temperature was in the mid-90s on the days the volunteers were at the church. Work was punctuated by sudden downpours, and after each shower the heat returned with higher humidity.

However, the camaraderie showed through the sweat and grime that covered the entire crew.

"I would say to anybody out there who had ever thought about doing one of these trips — do it. It's rewarding," said Harris. "You come away making friends for life."

Jay Heffron of Woodland Hills Church in Newcastle, Okla. — where the Lauderdale group has built in the past — said the work is demanding but worthwhile.

"I work as a machinist in an air-conditioned shop," said Heffron. "I come down here and get in this hot weather and sweat."

"You can hardly get up off the floor in the mornings after working all day, but

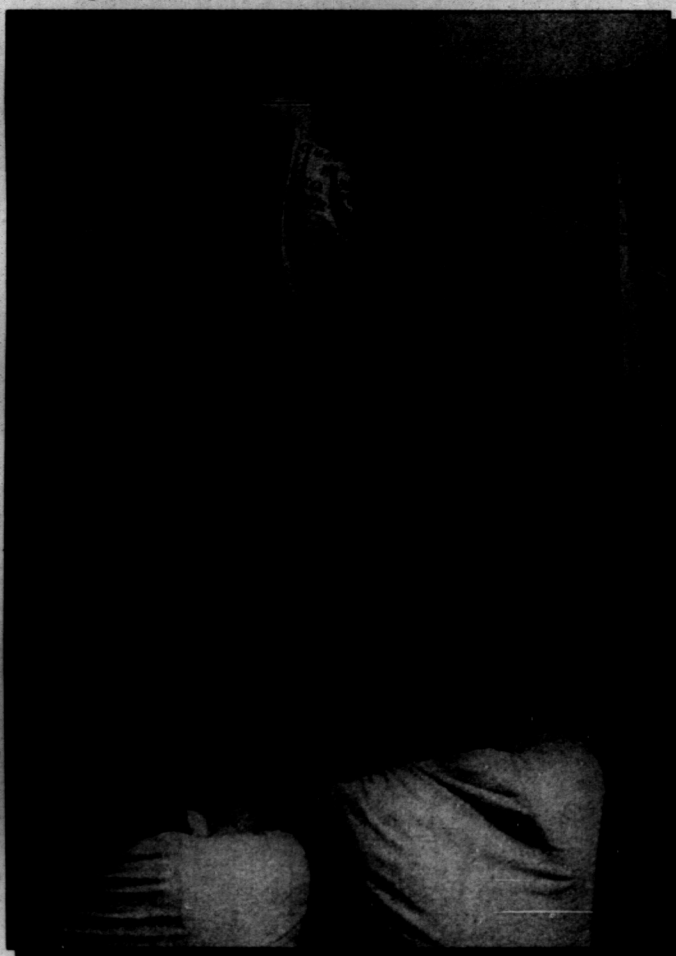
it's just a neat time to come and fellowship with other Christians, do something for the community, and help others to have a place to worship."

Corinth Church member Eddie Massey, who drew up plans for the new building, said the church has always given to MLSMO, "and now we are recipients of that gift." The Lord has blessed by giving back to us what we have given to others.

Higginbotham estimated the church will be completed before Thanksgiving of this year.

"Our church has gone from 18-25 people (before the fire) to the last few weeks, up around 60 people. The spirit is growing. The joy is there. The anticipation, you just can't imagine," he said.

*Editor's note: The Fall 2001 edition of Vessels, Mississippi Baptists' video magazine of missions and ministry, features a segment on the rebuilding of Corinth Church. Vessels is available from associational offices or through Communication Services, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jchen@mbcb.org.)*



**ONE MORE TAP** — Volunteer construction workers secure a wall at the rebuilding site for Corinth Church in Kemper County, which burned in December 2000. The Lauderdale County Builders for Christ, aided by the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering, are reconstructing the church. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

A full crew of about 60 construction volunteers spent the first week in June at the church site. Volunteers from a half dozen states, including members of Corinth Church, comprised the team.

The work crew even included people who attend churches built in the past by the Lauderdale group.

Some volunteers slept in homes, while others slept on the floors of local churches. Some worked in a Vacation Bible School on church property.



## you get state mission

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# Forced pastor, staff terminations leveling off

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Forced terminations among Southern Baptist pastors and other full-time church staff appear to have leveled off, annual surveys of state Baptist conventions indicate.

The survey, coordinated by the LeaderCare ministry of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), shows the total number of forced terminations reported by 22 state convention church-minister relations directors dipped to 987 in 2000.

The 1999 total, which also reported on full-time pastors, bivocational pastors and full-time staff, was 1,077 in 26 state conventions.

In 2000, the number of pastors forcibly terminated was 750, with 482 of those fully

funded pastors and 268 bivocational pastors. The total of other fully funded staff terminated was 237.

"About five years ago we saw a very significant decrease in the number of forced terminations in our convention," said Neil Knierim, manager of LifeWay's LeaderCare section.

"We have been able to maintain this significant reduction, and while we have not seen a significant decrease in the last couple of years, we have not experienced a return to the higher numbers of the past," he said.

A 1984 study on forced terminations in the SBC indicated 1,056 pastors were terminated annually. Among causes cited in that study were lack of unity and the presence of factions in the church, conflict over leader-

ship styles, relational incompetence, and tenure.

Terminations of other church staff persons were not counted in the early surveys.

Four years later, the survey was repeated, and forced termination totals had increased to 1,392 pastors annually.

Primary reasons included lack of communication, problems related to immorality and unethical conduct, performance dissatisfaction, authoritarian leadership style, power struggles, and personality conflicts.

While the numbers of pastors terminated have declined since the 1984 survey, the causes have remained essentially unchanged.

The 1999 survey found once again the most common causes for firings cited by directors of

missions in reports to state convention church-minister relations directors were:

- control issues regarding who will run the church.
- poor "people skills" of the pastor.
- pastoral leadership style perceived as too strong.
- the church's resistance to change.
- the church was already conflicted when the pastor arrived.

The average severance compensation was 2.55 months, while the average period of time the pastor was without employment was 2.92 months.

On average, terminated pastors were allowed eight weeks to stay in a church-owned home after being forced from their positions.

## First Church, Flora, to host conference

Equipping and Training Christians on Creation Apologetics taught by Mike Riddle of Kirkland, Wash., will be held at First Church, Flora, Sept. 8, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sept. 13 at 7 p.m. Riddle will also be at Beulah Church, Bolton, Sept. 14 at 7 p.m. For additional information, call Rickey Blythe, pastor of First Church, Flora, at (601) 879-8022.

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



Youth of Evergreen Church, Louisville

ticipated in Bible studies on P.D.A. (public displays of affection), homosexuality, and debt.

Lincoln Association recently had its annual Mission Friends and parents picnic in Brookhaven. This year there were 88 people (pictured) in attendance and 14 churches represented. Faye Smith is the consultant for Missions Friends in Lincoln County. Also pictured on the back row is a group of GAs from Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven.



Lincoln Association's Mission Friends picnic

### MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**FULL-TIME MINISTER OF PRESCHOOL** for First Baptist Church, Madison. Send resume to P.O. Box 400, Madison, MS 39130, ATTN: Terry; or e-mail [tmartinaz@fbcmadison.org](mailto:tmartinaz@fbcmadison.org).

**CHURCH AVERAGING 100** in Sunday School seeks full-time associate pastor/minister of music and youth. Please send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180; or fax to (601) 636-7574.

**PART-TIME YOUTH/MUSIC MINISTER** in Neshoba County. Send resumes to Beatline Baptist Church, Search Committee, 12345 Road 505, Philadelphia, MS 39350. Daytime (601) 656-3653; leave message.

**FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC/YOUTH POSITION AVAILABLE.** Staff housing is available. Please send resume to Doty Chapel Baptist Church, 234 Shackelford Ave., Shannon, MS 38868, phone (662) 767-3066.

**HARRISVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking a full-time minister of youth. Housing and benefits available. HBC is located in Simpson County approximately 30 miles south of Jackson. We have a very active youth group. Applicants should send a resume to Harrisville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 308, Harrisville, MS 39082; ATTN: Wayne Harris.

**PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER**, Lincoln County; send resume to: Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Attn: Susan David or Bro. Danny Moss, 814 Marwood Loop S/E, Bogue Chitto, MS 39629; or phone Danny Moss at (601) 833-8858 or Susan Davis at (601) 734-3915.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 60 cents per word, minimum of ten words; maximum of fifty words. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads. **ONLY WRITTEN ADS ACCEPTED.**

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**WANTED: FULL- OR PART-TIME** youth education director for a small church in the process of building a family life center. Unlimited opportunity. Contact Helen Burney, 1407 Wyoming Avenue, Ft. Pierce, FL 34982.

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**MINISTER OF MUSIC.** Shades Crest Baptist Church, Birmingham, AL, is searching for an experienced person to coordinate our music ministry. We are a congregation of 1,500 members, affiliated with both the CBF and SBC. Send resumes to Minister of Music Search Committee, Shades Crest Baptist Church, 452 Park Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35226; call (205) 822-1360; or e-mail our pastor, Dr. Dennis Foust at [dfoust@shadescrest.org](mailto:dfoust@shadescrest.org).

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**PEARL RIVER GLASS STUDIO, INC.,** (800) 771-3639; [www.prgs.com](http://www.prgs.com). New stained glass church windows, repair and restoration, baptistry murals.

**Women on Mission of Coldwater Church, Philadelphia**, were treated to an imaginary tour of Hawaii to learn about the work of Roger and Joy Turner, missionaries. Members present were Margaret Peebles, Nita Winstead, Barbara Hardin, Debby Lundy, Tracy James, and Linda Thaggard.



Women on Mission of Coldwater Church, Philadelphia

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## JUST FOR THE RECORD



**Mission team from Lauderdale Association**

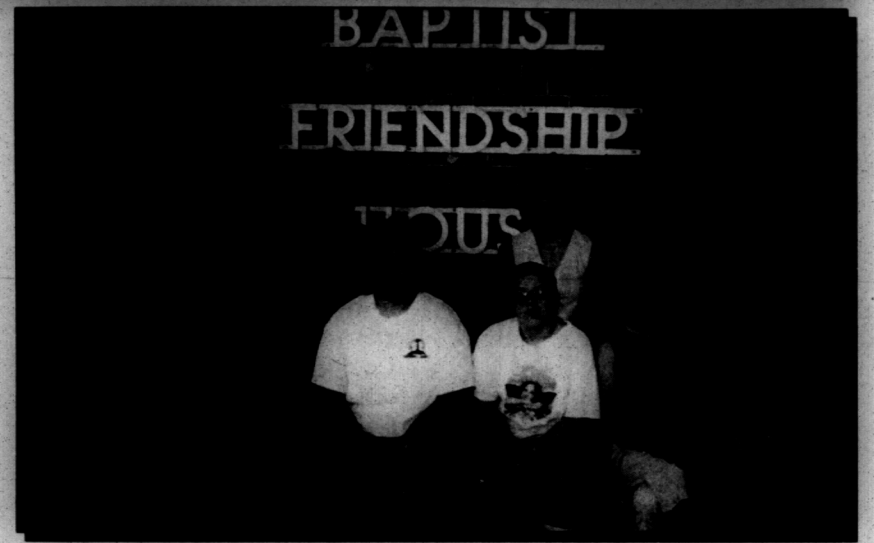
Seventeen members from churches in Lauderdale Association participated in an evangelism and church-planning campaign in Santiago, Panama, Central America from July 13-21. There were 365 professions of faith and 102 follow-up Bible studies completed. Churches involved were Westwood, State Boulevard, and Highland.

(front row) Martha Holloway, Sarah Joy Price, Caroline Bass, Mindy Herrington, Amanda Elliott, Pam Price, Cole Price, Sissy Bass, and Larry Bass. John Price is pastor.

**Oak Grove Church, Meridian**, will celebrate its 125th anniversary on Sept. 9, at 10:30 a.m. A luncheon and music will be held following morning services. Roy A. Dabbs is pastor.

**Beyond the Walls** will be presented in downtown Pelahatchie on Sept. 9 at 6 p.m. by Pelahatchie Concerned Parents along with local churches from Crossroads, Shiloh, Leesburg, and Pelahatchie. Ninth Hour will lead in a time of praise and worship through song. Jason Goodson from Life of Worship Youth Ministry will be the speaker. For further information, contact Larry White (601) 854-8824 or Ellen Lyle (601) 854-6020.

**Mission Greenville** was held at Parkview Church, July 22-27. Buck Run Church, Frankfurt, Ky., traveled to Greenville for this yearly missions effort. Other organizations involved were Evergreen Church, Benoit Christian Community Church, the Salvation Army, and Vessels of Mercy. Vacation Bible Schools and basketball camps were held as the Bible was taught and at noon over 450 children were fed sack lunches. One hundred and twenty



**Acteens of New Hebron Church, Newhebron**

children accepted Christ. Mission workers from all churches volunteered their labor and approximately \$8,000 in building materials was provided to repair two of the churches.

**Acteens of New Hebron Church, Newhebron**, worked and earned money to take a mission trip to the New Orleans Friendship House, a

homeless shelter. There they volunteered for odd jobs such as serving meals, cleaning, cooking, and organizing a toy bank. Pictured (from left, front row) are Bethany Little, Leanna Daughdrill, Kim Westmorland, Jody Lambert, Laura Daughdrill, and Christy McCloud; (back row) Rhonda Mayhugh and Jeanine McCloud, leaders.



**Senior citizens of Evergreen Church, Louisville**

The youth group of **Evergreen Church, Louisville**, recently hosted a banquet to honor the seniors citizens (pictured) of the church.

**Calvary Church, Lawrence Association**, took a mission trip to North Delta Association, July 9-13. The group held Vacation Bible School at Hollywood Church, and construction at Berea Church. Pictured (from left, back row) are Marvin and Farris Swindle, Kelly Miller, Doris Kirby, Jeanette Roberson, George Kirby, Sue Elliott, Megan Rogillio, Clint Rogillio, Timmy Rogillio, John Price, Jerry Cox;



**Mission team from Calvary Church, Lawrence Association**



**Participants at Mission Greenville**





## LABORERS IN RICHMOND?

Editor:

I read with interest Kimberly Davis' attack on Southern Baptist for our lack of involvement in foreign missions. Many of us are guilty. However, she may have provided the answer to her own question, "Where are the laborers?" It appears that many of them have left the front lines of the mission field for service in Richmond, Va.

Steve Williams  
Summit

## WRITERS SOUGHT

Editor:

Each year during September and October, students in participating schools and colleges in China write letters addressed "To my American Friend," and their teachers send the letters to the International Book Project of Samford University. From there the National Fellowship of Baptist Educators (NFBE) distributes them to Christian

groups who will answer them. We are looking for Baptist youth groups, Sunday School classes, Acteens, Challengers, Baptist Student groups on college campuses, and Christian clubs such as First Priority who would like to participate. Students participating should be in college or in grades 7-12.

To obtain the letters, along with Guidelines for answering them, please contact John Carter, National Fellowship of Baptist Educators, Samford University Box 292305, Birmingham, AL 35229; phone or fax (205) 822-4106; e-mail j-carter@juno.com. Give the name, address, and telephone number of person making the request, the name of the group, and the number of letters for each category (grades 7-9; 10-12; and college) that the students will promise to answer. Requests must reach us by November 1 in order to be included.

Letters will be sent to you in early November and should be answered by December 1.

We expect to receive over 2,000 letters, and we will appreciate any group or individual student who will participate.

John Carter, Ex. Dir., NFBE  
Birmingham

## CORNERSTONE DISBANDS

Editor:

At a special-called meeting of the membership of Cornerstone Church, Grenada, on June 3, 2001, the motion was made and carried to disband.

Gene Miller, chairman of deacons and trustee  
Cornerstone Church, Grenada

## 'NET COURSES COMING

Editor:

In August I became the new director of Seminary Extension, a ministry of the Council of Seminary Presidents. Already I have learned that last year 89 students from Mississippi took a Seminary Extension course. Some 62 took a course in a class-

room setting at an Extension Center and 27 took courses through Independent Study, working at their own pace at their home or office. Some took college level courses; some took more basic courses.

Soon we will be offering many of these same courses over the Internet — something I pioneered while dean of undergraduate and lay theological studies at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

I take seriously Seminary Extension's assignment given when it was started in 1951: "take on-the-job training to church leaders who cannot or will not attend a college or seminary."

If any of your readers want to find out how Seminary Extension courses can help them become a better minister, or teacher, or other church leader, I hope they will write me at 901 Commerce Street, Nashville, TN 37203. Telephone: (800) 229-4612. E-mail: bvinson@seminaryextension.org.

William (Bill) Vinson  
Nashville



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

# Religious charities nixed by gov't, report says

WASHINGTON (BP) — Religious charities aren't given a fair shot at getting government grant money for social service programs, says a study released by the Bush administration.

According to CNSNews.com, in the report, White House officials describe a culture of hostility and confusion in federal bureaucracies, and a bias in favor of big organizations.

The report also points to complicated regulations that scare away small charities. All of these factors effectively shut out many religious charities from getting government funds to help people battle drug addiction, get jobs, or help at-risk kids.

While accurate data is hard to come by, agency records documented in the report show very little of discretionary funds flowing to faith-based groups: 0.3% for the Justice Department;

two percent for the Education Department; and one percent for the Labor Department.

The President created offices of faith-based and community initiatives in five cabinet agencies and within the White House during his first month in office, tasking them with investigating ways in which the federal bureaucracy discriminates against religious groups when handing out government grant money.

The report's authors conclude that one cause of the problem is that many bureaucrats, at all levels of government, wrongly believe that awarding government money to religious charities is unconstitutional.

"We understand that the people who administer these programs are not trying to keep people out arbitrarily," said Stanley Carlson-Theis, White House associate director for

cabinet affairs. However, said Carlson-Theis, they may not be accustomed to dealing with religious groups.

Carlson-Theis and his colleagues documented 15 barriers to religious groups seeking government grants.

He said bureaucrats harbor a "pervasive suspicion" about faith-based groups, often believing it would be unconstitutional to award government money to religious groups, despite federal laws that allow for it.

Some critics of the report say that the administration goes too far in its reliance on how the Supreme Court will view government funding of religious groups.

"The White House report does open a discussion about barriers [and] talks about a sort of paradigm shift they believe is happening on the Supreme Court in the area of church and state," said Melissa Rogers, executive director of the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, a liberal foundation.

## REVIVAL DATES

**Faith, Jackson:** Sept. 19-23; Wed.-Sat., 6:30 p.m.; Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; Jack Gregory, evangelist; Patton and Dana Rice, music; Greg Wolfe, pastor.

**First, Sumrall:** Sept. 9-12; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. Billy Smith,

Madison, evangelist; Billy Nelson, music; Glenn Davis, pastor.

**Providence, Hattiesburg:** Sept. 9-12; Sunday, 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ryan Whitney, Centerpoint, Ala., evangelist; Tim Hubbard, Petal, music; Ray Cummings, pastor.

**Antioch, Columbus:** Sept. 9-12; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Charles Smith, evangelist.

## See You At The Pole



Wednesday  
September 19, 2001

Resource materials can be obtained by calling (817) 447-7526 or on the internet by visiting [www.syatp.com](http://www.syatp.com).

Please report your numbers to Don Lum at [dlum@mbcb.org](mailto:dlum@mbcb.org) or call (601) 292-3280 or (800) 748-1651 ext. 280 (outside Jackson).

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**Books - September 19, 2001**  
Hattiesburg, Miss., will celebrate its 110th anniversary during the month of September. Sept. 2: James Messer, Theodore, Ala., guest speaker; Ronnie Cottingham, Lucedale, music; The Professor, Hattiesburg, Miss., during evening service. 9: 110th Anniversary Service.



## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Affirming God's worthiness

Numbers 13:1-2; 14:6-38

By Wayne Marshall

The frantic call reached the paramedics and they rushed to the aid of a lady attacked by an alligator. Only later did they learn the full story. It seems that the baby gator had been placed in the lake behind the lady's home several years earlier.

The lady had learned to ignore the gator and thought that the gator had done the same. Now the damage was done. If only she had paid attention to the problem she would have been spared much pain and anxiety as she recovered from the incident.

This week's passage finds the Israelites in a similar dilemma. The "gator" of rebellion has slowly grown in the camp until their fear and faithlessness caused them to miss

Canaan. Their approach to possessing this land is a blueprint for our decision process today. Our lesson reflects how God honors obedience.

**The holy instruction (13:1-2).** God made his plan very clear. Moses obeyed God and sent twelve men on a mission. It was their specific task to search out the land and give a report.

Their trip proved to be profitable for they saw the land God had promised as "a good land." One cluster of grapes had to be carried by two men. The land "flowed with milk and honey" fulfilling all of their expectations.

God was keeping his promise; a promise made to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3), Moses (Ex. 3:6-10), and even eventual-



Marshall

ly to Joshua (Josh. 1:1-10). God could be trusted to keep his promise but could the people see that truth?

**The human investment (14:6-25).** One of the first questions asked in any relationship is "What will it cost me?" That question echoed throughout the Israelite camp as the spies returned. They told of a great land but they also spoke of obstacles.

With every vision there is a price to be paid. The people of the land were extremely strong and the cities were well fortified. The "giants" of the land seemed to make the hearts of the people melt into discouragement. That discouragement brought its own set of problems.

Numbers 14:2-5 shows us two of those struggles. One of these was "murmuring." It is that half-hearted voice of discontent that accompanies a disobedient, fear prone people.

Blame must be placed somewhere and the people quickly

blamed the leadership. Fear seems always to blame faith for its problems. Yet there was still a second problem. One might call it the "good ole days" syndrome.

Any challenge leads some people backwards into forgetfulness. The Israelites were forgetting the bondage, slavery, and pain of Egypt. That rationalization would cost them Canaan. Going back meant disobedience to God and God wanted obedience. Yet this is the choice for each of us as individuals and the choice for every church in need of a new vision.

**The honored integrity (14:26-38).** How thankful one must be for Joshua and Caleb. God has always had men to stand in the presence of fear and scream "Have faith in God." Yet the people of Israel did not listen nor did they obey.

In these last verses two characteristics of God are noted. It becomes obvious that "God expects obedience." God was pleased with Joshua and Caleb as they sought to persuade the people to respond in faith.

He was very displeased with the Israelites in their choice to stop their progress toward Canaan. So hot was God's displeasure that they were to be left as "carcasses in the wilderness" (14:32). This activity on God's part would seem rash to some were it not for God's infinite patience already displayed toward the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan.

The other display of God's character is evident in his promise to Joshua and Caleb. Verses 30 and 38 show that "God rewards faithfulness." Neither Joshua nor Caleb escaped the forty years of wilderness wanderings, yet both lived through them and both saw the promise of God become a reality.

Such a God deserves our trust and obedience today. It is not often that one learns to obey by missing problems but rather by seeing the hand of God in the problems. Each of us must make a conscious decision to follow his plan and activity for our lives.

Marshall is pastor of Longview Heights Church in Olive Branch.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Exemplary believers

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

By Dell Scoper

This Sunday we begin a 13-week study of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, entitled Living the Faith, designed to guide us in living out our faith consistently, even in times of crisis. We shall also have opportunity to renew our commitment to rest in the sure hope of Jesus' return.

The study theme of Unit 1, Portraying the Faith, will carry us through 1 Thessalonians 1-3 during September.

**Portraying the Faith.** The need to be challenged and inspired by fellow believers who really are exemplary disciples, worthy of imitation, is one of the most crucial needs in the local church today. As the opening lines of this epistle unfold, the earliest writing in the New Testament canon, we see for ourselves the power of the Holy Spirit so evi-

dent in the ministry of the Apostle Paul, his missionary companions, and the Thessalonian converts. They were genuine "exemplary believers," the topic of this week's lesson.

How tragic to see so many Christians today allowing the world "to squeeze them into its own mold" (J.B. Phillips, Letters to Young Churches, Romans 12:2). On the one hand, we have concluded that more Christians than not in today's local church are poor portrayals of faith. On the other hand, there is always hope and help in the Holy Spirit, who promises to guide us into all truth, if we would honestly evaluate what it takes to portray the faith.

**Historical Background.** Today's city of Salonika makes Thessalonica one of the few New



Scoper

Testament cities with a continuous history to the present. Its original name was Thermae (because of its hot springs) until 315 B.C., when it was renamed Thessalonica by the Macedonian general, Cassander, after the half-sister of Alexander the Great. Since 146 B.C., Thessalonica was a free city ruled by its own council of citizens.

**Setting for the Epistle.** In Paul's time (mid-first century A.D.), Thessalonica was a thriving port city of approximately 200,000. Located on the Via Egnatia, the major Roman highway connecting Rome with Constantinople, Thessalonica occupied a major place in Paul's mission strategy. Here was a city that bridged East with the West. Once the gospel was planted there, Paul would have a base to reach Rome in the west and all of Asia to the east.

The exciting account of Paul's planting this church is recorded by the medical doctor/historian Luke in Acts 17:1-9. For certain we know that

Paul and his company on Paul's second missionary journey were in Thessalonica at least three Sabbath days, presenting only a window of opportunity to plant a significant church which would be predominantly Gentile.

**Elements of a Christian example (1:1-3).** Paul's prayer of thanksgiving was inspired by the Thessalonian believers' example of service and endurance, rooted in their faith, love, and hope in Christ. Significant is the fact that the three persons listed in the letter's salutation typify the Roman, Greek, and Jewish elements that formed the mixed substance of the early church's membership — Paul, Silas, and Timothy. Note: the NIV and KJV differences at the end of 1:1 are based on different ancient texts. The KJV's additional words are understood in the NIV.

**Application:** Key elements in being exemplary Christians are work, labor, and endurance in Christian service, motivated by faith, hope, and love in Christ.

**Following a Christian example (1:4-6).** After the

Thessalonian Christians responded to Paul's presentation of the gospel, they followed his example, even though doing so invited persecution (severe suffering). Note: 1:4, NIV, "...he has chosen," does not present either divine choice or human volition in a manner that allows one to diminish the other" (Martin, New American Commentary, vol. 33, p. 43).

**Application:** We are to follow the example set by exemplary believers who effectively serve Christ, not counting the cost.

**Becoming a Christian example (1:7-10).** The Thessalonian believers came to be known as exemplary Christians not only through Macedonia, the Roman province in the northeastern section of Greece, and Achaia (Ache), the Roman province south of Macedonia, but also beyond these borders.

**Application:** We are to focus on living the exemplary Christian life, one that demonstrates we have "turned from idols to serve the living and true God..." (1 Thess. 1:9b, NIV).

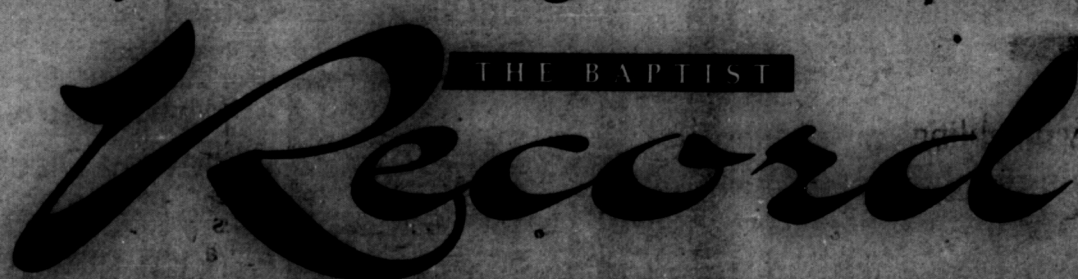
Scoper is a member of First Church, Laurel.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,



no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



# PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES



iving

## GAMBLING: Mississippi's Pot of Gold?

By Jimmy Porter, executive director  
Christian Action Commission

People, like you and me, have often looked and wished for the legendary "pot of gold" at the end of the rainbow. In the early 1990s Mississippi's elected officials thought they had found it. The solution to the financial problems of the poorest state in the union was just a vote away. So, in a few short years, Mississippi became the third largest gambling market in the United States.

Our elected officials learned that commercial casino gaming had come a long way since the first casino opened its doors in Nevada in 1931. Today, the America Gaming Association states that "the more than 470 commercial casinos operating in 11 states have become a driving force in the United States economy by providing hundreds of thousands of jobs, entertaining millions of customers, generating billions of dollars in needed tax revenue, and contributing to improvements in communities nationwide" (<http://www.americagaming.org>).

If you are a state seeking that elusive "pot of gold" then you might buy into the gambling industry's propaganda. It is true that jobs are generated, tax revenues are collected, and community improvements are made. Somehow, the whole

truth is never told. We are shown the glitz and the glamour but never the wasted and destroyed lives.

Recent news from our capitol suggest that our financial problems have not been solved, either. More money is needed for teacher salaries and instructional materials, raises for state employees, road repair, Medicaid, etc. The question most often asked is "Where is all that money from gambling?" The bottom line is that we were sold a "bag of garbage" and not a "pot of gold."

Gambling is not "gaming" nor is it "entertainment." It is a dangerous industry designed to strip you of everything you own. As one pastor recently sermonized, "Gambling provides you the opportunity to drive to the casino in your twenty thousand dollar car and then ride home on a two hundred thousand dollar bus." An "innocent trip" to eat a cheap meal or to drop a few coins in a slot machine can and often does end in a bankruptcy or divorce court.

Gambling is dangerous because it is highly addictive. Last year Americans spent 61.4 billion dollars on legal gambling. Consumers spent more on gambling than they did on movie tickets, recorded music, theme parks, spectator sports, and video games combined (IGWB, August 2001). About 5% of 20

million U.S. teenagers are pathological gamblers according to the American Academy of Pediatrics (Family Research Council News, April 6, 2000).

The "high" that poker players talk about when they fill an inside straight is more than a metaphor. A new brain-imaging study at Massachusetts General Hospital found that certain regions of the brain respond to gambling wins much the same way the brain does to cocaine.

Hans Breiter states that "gambling produces a similar pattern of activity to cocaine as in the cocaine addict." The conclusion is that gambling addiction may have the same neural basis as drug addiction (Newsweek, June 4, 2001).

This past spring, Ronald Dunaway Fluke was killed with a lethal dose of drugs at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester. In 1997 he shot to death his wife and two daughters. A compulsive gambler, Fluke had said he wanted to spare his wife and daughters the embarrassment of what he viewed as his impending financial doom (Clarion Ledger, March 28, 2001). Gambling is addictive and can lead to dangerous behavior.

The gambling industry is also very aggressive. Aggressive because in Mississippi the rules, regulations, and taxes are quite favorable to the industry when compared to some other states. The manager of one casino stated in the Memphis Commercial Appeal in October 1997, "The environment of the state of Mississippi is good. They allow us to manage our business to where we are profitable. The regulatory set up is good."

Recently, the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians from Louisiana attempted to open a casino in Tishomingo County and when that failed they tried again in Greene County. In both counties, religious and civic leaders united to keep the casinos out. Also, Governor Ronnie Musgrove said he would not sign a compact with the Jena Tribe, which according to federal regulation is necessary.

Our former governor did sign a compact with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians which resulted in the Silver Star Casino and soon to be Golden Moon Casino near Philadelphia. The compact stipulates that the tribe pay the state \$250,000 a year plus the alcohol beverage taxes.

While the Choctaws were paying our state \$250,000, they were spending \$1,147,000 in 1997, \$1,480,000 in 1998, and \$3,205,000 in 1999 on lobbyists (Center for Responsible Politics). Mississippi citizens got a "bag of garbage" and not a "pot of gold."



Gambling is both addictive and aggressive. The question remains, "What can I do about gambling since it is already here?"

- Pray for those you know who struggle with gambling and for their families.
- Refuse to gamble or to patronize their eating establishments.
- Educate your church family as to the dangers of gambling using the free materials which can be previewed at <http://www.christianaction.com>.
- Encourage your church leaders to join other Southern Baptist churches in promoting September 16, 2001 as Anti-Gambling Sunday.

Let's tell all Mississippians that our "pot of gold" has turned out to be nothing more than a "bag of garbage."



### THE HOMELESS SPEAK ON GAMBLING

- ◆ In your opinion, do you think gambling is addictive?  
Yes 86% No 14%
- ◆ Do you think gambling or playing the lottery makes it difficult for homeless people to put their lives back together?  
Yes 70% No 30%
- ◆ Do you think gambling is a factor in homelessness?  
Yes 60% No 40%
- ◆ Do you think there are too many gambling opportunities (i.e. lotteries, casinos, tracks) in this city?  
Yes 60% No 40%
- ◆ Have you ever gambled or played the lottery?  
Yes 85% No 15%

Source: excerpted from "Statistics & Studies: 1998 Gambling & Homelessness Survey," International Union of Gospel Missions



## ACP data available on Internet

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Effective with the 2001 Annual Church Profile (ACP) process, churches can have access to Southern Baptist Directory Services (SBDS), a secure Internet application for gaining a wide variety of statistical and leadership information.

SBDS is not accessible by the general public. The website is protected, and access will only be available with a username and password.

For the 32 state conventions participating in SBDS, usernames and passwords are being provided to churches with ACP packets. Churches affiliated with non-participating state conventions are not receiving usernames and passwords with ACP material. Information will be provided at a later time for these congregations to access SBDS.

Associations in non-participating state conventions may request access information by contacting the SBDS administrator at [sbds.admin@lifeway.com](mailto:sbds.admin@lifeway.com).

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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HPB SHXZ KZZB SR  
QRWDNZEYZN, EZNS HS  
HPQ SJLZ QRWD KZHD-  
SN AZ RYZDFKHIDIZB TJSK  
NWDCZJSJPI, HPB BDW-  
PXZPPZNN, HPB FHDZN  
RC SKJN EJCZ, HPB NR  
SKHS BHQ FRLZ WVRP  
QRW WPTHZDN.

EWXZ STZPSQ-RPZ:

SKJDSQ-CRWD

Clue: W = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Acts Twenty: Twenty-Eight.

# Land warns of Internet 'dark underbelly'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — News that a Texas husband and wife were convicted in the largest child pornography business ever uncovered wasn't surprising to Richard Land.

His concern is that the news was so shocking to most other Americans. The international porn ring is still being broken up, U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft reported after the Aug. 8 convictions.

Land, as president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), knows that the growth of the Internet has brought nearly as much bad as good.

The ready availability of online child pornography is a case in point, Land said. He cited a March 19, 2001, Newsweek report recounting that legal authorities had done a good job in busting up child pornography rings until the Internet provided a whole new and wide-open avenue for propagating the filth.

"Child pornography was pretty much eradicated in the 1980s," said Kevin Delli-Colli in the Newsweek report. Delli-Colli is chief of the U.S. Customs Cyber-Smuggling Center. "With the advent of the Internet, it exploded."

In Mississippi, a growing number of high-profile cases involving child pornography and pornography-related molestations have cast a harsh local spotlight on the problem.

The Customs Service worked with the U.S. Postal

Inspection Service, the FBI, and the Dallas Police

Department in conducting a two-year probe of the Fort Worth couple that resulted in their Aug. 8 conviction on trafficking child pornography.

The pair was convicted last year for sexual exploitation of minors and distribution of child pornography.

When officials discovered the ring, it reportedly had between 250,000-300,000 subscribers and grossed as much as \$1.4 million a month.

Land said while the Internet is a helpful and safe tool for information and entertainment for many, its advent also was "a bonanza for peddlers of filth and perversion."

Such sex sites are the "dark underbelly of the Internet" and are among its most visited sites, Land said.

"I can't begin to imagine the countless number of young lives destroyed at the hands of these cyber-molesters," Land said, noting the FBI opened 700 cases dealing with pedophilia in 1998, most for posting child pornogra-

phy, but that by 2000 more than 2,800 such cases were opened.

"Internet pornography sales are expected to top \$366 million this year," Land said. Online sales totaled \$140 million in 1997.

"Not only is child pornography destructive to those abused

or even murdered in its production, but research tells us its users are then motivated to prey on children around them," he continued.

The typical pedophile is white, male, and well educated, with no criminal background, Land said. He warned that those victimized by pedophiles normally already know their attacker.

Families need to be aware of the risks online as well, Land said.

"Parents need to take an active role in monitoring their youngsters' use of the Internet. Few parents would take their kids downtown and drop them off unescorted after dark, but that is in effect what we are doing when we allow our children to surf the net alone and unprotected," he said.

Land said ERLC has developed a resource kit to aid church leaders in helping parents address the "scourge of pornography." The Champion Action Kit on Sexual Purity is available at

(800) 475-9127 at a cost of \$24.95.

"The most vile and offensive material imaginable is but a keystroke away from any of us," he said. "It's time we recognize the dangers and take measures to protect ourselves and our children."



## File sharing opens new avenues for pornography

WASHINGTON (BP) — A new front in the battle over online pornography has opened, disabling in the process some of the defenses used by parents to protect their children from such material, according to a new congressional report.

Internet file-sharing programs are enabling users to download sexually explicit videos and photographs onto home computers, circumventing much of the filtering software designed to block the reception of pornography from the World Wide Web.

Hard-core adult pornography, child porn, sexual violence, and bestiality are accessible without charge to people of all ages through new file-sharing programs such as Music City Morpheus, Aimster, and BearShare.

Users of such programs can even be unintentionally exposed to pornography when searching for other images. That unsettling news for many parents and others concerned about the proliferation of pornography came in a report issued by a section of the House of Representatives Government Reform Committee.

The special investigations division of the committee's minority staff did the research at the request of Reps. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., and Steve Largent, R-Okla.

"These new file-sharing systems are bringing a problem into our homes that we've never had before," Waxman said in a written statement released with the report July 27.

"It's not a question of gratuitous violence or bad language or bad taste — it's an explosion of the most demeaning and dehumanizing exhibitions imaginable, and it can appear on our children's computer screens

whether they ask for it or not," he said. Waxman and Largent said they are not proposing legislation to deal with the problem at this time.

Their purpose in issuing the report was to inform parents of the problem and to suggest some steps they may take to respond to it. With file sharing, computer users are able to download the software one

time, then avoid using a Web browser or website to access the files they are seeking.

Although they have to go online, they can simply click on the program's icon and become connected to a network with other users from whom they can download files and with whom they can trade files. The report and the parental tips may be accessed at [www.house.gov/reform/min/porn.html](http://www.house.gov/reform/min/porn.html).

## Prevent Internet

Parents can take steps to protect their children from the dangers of the Internet, according to Enough is Enough, a national organization on the importance of protecting children.

Enough is Enough's suggestions:

• Be Internet savvy.

• Create a "public" area in your house.

• Talk to your children about their online activities.

• Use a "parental control" software available on your online service.

• Use an "Internet provider" that filters out inappropriate content.

• Use a "safe" search engine.

• Don't have online profiles, so you can't be approached in children's chat rooms.

• Don't give out personal information, such as your school they attend or your address.

• Don't post, send, or receive inappropriate images or text.

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